

Message Text

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41

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00

PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 PM-09 L-03 NSC-10 COME-00

INT-08 RSR-01 /087 W

----- 052098

R 141445 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4071

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, BC, ZA

SUBJ: MINING MACHINERY FOR ZAMBIA TO BE TRUCKED THROUGH BOTSWANA

1. THE FERRY BETWEEN BOTSWANA AND ZAMBIA AT KAZUNGULA, WHICH WAS CLOSED BY THE ZAMBIAN OPERATORS ON FEB 2, WAS IN OPERATION ON MARCH 11 TO PERMIT NINE HEAVY- DUTY TRUCKS AND ACCOMPANYING SERVICE VEHICLES TO CROSS THE ZAMBEZI FROM ZAMBIA TO BOTSWANA. THE CONVOY WILL TRAVEL DOWN THE UNIMPROVED TRAIL FROM KAZUNGULA TO NATA AND THEN CONNECT WITH THE IMPROVED ROAD FROM NATA TO FRANCISTOWN. AT FRANCISTOWN THE TRUCKS WILL LOAD MINING MACHINERY WHICH HAS BEEN RAILED FROM SOUTH AFRICA AND THEN MAKE THE RETURN TRIP USING THE SAME ROUTE.

2. OFFICIALS IN GOB OFFICE OF PRESIDENT AND POLICE HEADQUARTERS COMMENTED TO EMBOFF ON 13 MARCH THAT THEY ARE HOPEFUL ZAMBIA WILL RESUME NORMAL OPERATION OF THE FERRY IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THEY ADDED THAT GOB NOT OVERLY CONCERNED ABOUT SPASMODIC RIFLEFIRE EXCHANGES BETWEEN SA POLICE AND ZAMBIAN TROOPS AS THIS HAS BEEN HAPPENING SINCE ZAMBIA- RHODESIA BORDER WAS CLOSED ON 1 JAN. AND AS YET

NO ONE IN BOTSWANA HAS BEEN INJURED. GOB HAS REPORTS THAT ZAMBIANS

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ARE FIRING, WITHOUT CAUSING DAMAGE, ON SOUTH AFRICAN AND
RHODESIAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT OPERATING IN KAZUNGULA- CAPRIVI AREA.
NELSON

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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To: AF
CAPE TOWN
JOHANNESBURG
LUSAKA
PRETORIA
SECSTATE WASHDC
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